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conditions and over such a wide extent of territory that they appear to be the prevailing conditions and not exceptional.

Did these accumulations in the great valleys, often two miles or more in width, occur only on the northern and western sides of the high lands the theory of glacial drains might be supported. But they also occur on the southern and eastern sides of so many mountain masses so as to preclude the idea of their formation in glacial lakes. And the author has found the same structure within a few degrees of of the equator.

The platforms are commonly cut out of till deposits filling preglacial valleys, and are covered with sands and gravels. From these evidences, the author concludes that the New England Mountain regions have been elevated at least 2700 feet in the post-glacial epoch, or in other words the post-glacial submergence was at least 2700 feet in New England, but much less farther westward. Although this great continental movement has so recentlv occurred, yet the magnitude of the coastal changes have not yet been fully considered, but it was probably much less.—J. W. SPENCER.

BOTANY.[1]

Sacaline.—Under this name a species of *Polygonum* (*P. sachalinense* F. Schmidt, from Saghalin Island) has been freely advertised in this country within the last six months as a forage plant, especially adapted to the conditions which prevail upon the Great Plains. Extravagant claims as to its great value were made by dealers who wished to supply the farmers with roots or seeds. It was said that from one hundred to nearly two hundred tons of the plant could be grown upon an acre, and the forage yielded by it was said to nearly or quite equal that of Alfalfa or Red Clover in nutritiousness.

For two years the writer has watched carefully a clump of this plant growing upon a favorable spot upon the campus of the University of Nebraska. In spite of the fact that the plants have had better care than they would have in an ordinary field, they have made but a moderate growth, at no time exceeding three feet in height. The clump is moderately ornamental, about as much so as a fine growth of dock (*Rumex*), and less so than rhubarb (*Rheum*). The foliage is neither dense nor abundant, while the stems and branches are very tough and hard; the latter are evidently unfit for forage, while thus far no animals have shown any disposition to eat any part of the plant.

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[1] Edited by Prof. C. E. Bessey, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

While it blossoms freely late in the summer, it has not produced seeds. It is slowly spreading under the ground by its creeping rootstocks.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum.—The eleventh volume of this work has recently appeared. It contains 4220 additional species, scattered through the whole of the fungi. Many of the descriptions are rather badly mutilated, often being reduced to little more than mere measurements. This suggests that the author may have become weary of his work, and that we have in this volume the last of the Sylloge. The total number of species thus far described in the eleven volumes of the Sylloge is 42,383.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

North American Fungi.—The thirty-third century of Ellis and Everhart's "North American Fungi" appeared not long ago. The former excellence of this standard distribution is fully maintained in the present volume. The more important genera represented are *Cercospora* (5 species), *Phyllosticta* (8 sp.), *Puccinia* (3 sp.), *Ramularia* (4 sp.), *Septoria* (11 sp.), and *Valsa* (5 sp.).

Hough's American Woods.—This distribution of wood sections has reached Part VI, bringing the number of species thus far represented up to about one hundred and fifty. The part before us is devoted to the woods of the Pacific Coast. The species represented are *Rhamnus purshiana, Aesculus californica, Cercidium torreyanum, Prosopis juliflora, Cercocarpus parvifolius, Garrya elliptica, Arbutus menziesii, Arctostaphylos pungens, Chilopsis saligua, Platanus racemosa, Quercus garryana, Quercus agrifolia, Quercus densiflora, Castanopsis chrysophylla, Salix lævigata, Libocedrus decurrens, Sequoia gigantea, Sequoia sempervirens, Taxus brevifolia, Torreya californica, Pinus lambertiana, Pinus ponderosa, Pinus contorta, Picea sitchensis, Pseudotsuga taxifolia.* These sections should find a place in the collections of every botanical department of the universities of the country, and for the forestry departments of our agricultural colleges they are indispensible.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Seymour's Grasses and Grass-like Plants of North America.—The second half-century of this useful collection was sent out during the summer. The numbers from 51 to 61, inclusive, include sedges, the remainder being true grasses. The specimens are large and well dried, and the labels are full and of neat form and size. Occasionally, a specimen is somewhat deficient in roots, a fault which may easily be avoided in subsequent issues.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.[1]

Saccardo's Color Scale.—The learned author of the Sylloge Fungorum has issued a second improved edition of his color scale (*Chromotaxia seu nomenclator colorum polyglottus additis speciminibus coloratis ad usum Botanicorum et Zoologorum.* Editio altera. Patavii. Typis Seminarii, 1894) which is very useful and ought to be in the hands of every botanist. The pamphlet contains 22 pages of Latin text and two well executed tables of 25 colors each. The text gives in regular order, from left to right: (1) The Latin name of the type color. (2) Latin synonyms. (3) Latin names of colors approaching the typical color. (4) Italian names. (5) French names. (6) English names. (7) German names. (8) Explanatory remarks. To illustrate, we have under the first entry: " Albus. Candidus, niveus, ermineus, virgineus, calceus, gypseus, cretaceous, cerussatus, olorinus. Albatus, albicans, albidus, albidulus, albineus, albinus, albulus, eburneus; pallidus, pallens, pallidulus; lacteus, lacticolor, galactites, galochrous; argenteus, argyraceous; candicans, canescens. Bianco, eburneo, pallido, latteo, argenteo, canescente. Blanc, blanc d'ivoire, pâle, blanc de lait, argentin. White, ivory-white, pallid, milk-white, silver-colored. Weiss, elfenbeinweiss, blass, milchweiss, silberfarben. Typical examples: *Lime*, *gypsum*, *snow*, *white lead*, *ermine*. Pallidus is an impure white. Argenteus, argyreus (from *argyros*, silver) is a metallic, shining white. Lacteus is the color of fresh cow's milk. Galactites, galochrous are from *gala*, milk. Candicans, canescens is pure or impure white resulting from a tomentum such as on the under side of the leaf of *Populus alba* or *Alnus incana*. Olorinus (from *Cygnus olor*) is a pure shining white (example *Clitocybe olorina*)." An examination of the color scale cannot fail to deepen the impression that it is futile to attempt to use color terms in natural history without referring them to some particular scale or standard. On first thought, nothing seems less likely to be misunderstood than such terms as flesh-

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[1] This department is edited by Erwin F. Smith, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.